

THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1896.

The San Francisco office of the Daily Record-Union and Weekly Union is at 208 Montgomery street.

THE WEEKLY UNION.

It is the best weekly paper. It appears in semi-weekly papers. It thus goes to subscribers twice every ordinary week.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 106 1/4 for 4s of 1907; 103 1/2 for 4s of 1881; 109 for 4 1/2; sterling, 84 1/4; silver, 105; 113; silver coin, 4 discount buying, par selling.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; Mexican dollars, 30 buying, 31 selling.

At Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 10s 6 1/2 for average California white, and 11s 10 for 60 for club.

MINING STOCKS were quiet in San Francisco yesterday morning. Values continue steady. Union Consolidated fell off \$1, but only 100 shares were sold in the regular board. Belcher was firmer and more active.

It is again reported from Glasgow that diamonds are successfully made there.

Great excitement prevailed at Santa Cruz yesterday in regard to the non-execution of Colby, who was to have been hanged for the murder of Harry Williams.

CATTLE and horses are still dying of cold and starvation in British Columbia, and the whole country is infected at the situation.

A BURN of miners at the Skagit gold fields has commenced through British Columbia.

The steamer Columbia, for Panama, yesterday took 65 cabin passengers and 95 in the steerage—an increase of 30 per cent. over the previous average list.

THIRTY-SIX miners were yesterday stricken from the list of the San Francisco Stock Board on account of the non-payment of dues and other causes.

An unknown man was run over and killed yesterday at Watts Station, on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

It fell from a derrick at West Oakland yesterday. Mr. Partridge was probably fatally injured.

ROBERT COLLEY has been appointed Governor of Natal.

The boring of the St. Gothard tunnel will be finished in twelve days.

The President has nominated Rowland E. Trowbridge, of Michigan, to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

REV. EDWARD COWLEY, late Manager of the Shepherd's Fold, in New York, was yesterday sentenced to a year in the State Prison and \$250 fine.

PIER at Atlantic, Va.; also at Derby, Pa. By a railroad accident near Redino, O., Thursday night, 32 passengers were injured, some fatally.

GENERAL LOUGHEED pronounces for Grant over all other candidates.

The total number of persons killed by the Winter Palace explosion at St. Petersburg is ten.

ANOTHER insurgent plot has been discovered in Cuba.

The Marysville Woolen Mills have closed, throwing about seventy persons out of employment.

FISNOLL apologized in the British House of Commons yesterday for the language contained in his recent handbook.

WILLIAM FETTER was accidentally killed on Thursday at Stockton, Cal.

A CAVE in a tunnel has stopped all railroad communication between Grass Valley and Nevada City.

ABOUT ten persons are dying daily at Rio de Janeiro from yellow fever.

The Prussian Diet has been adjourned by royal order.

At Valparaiso recently twenty persons were killed by an explosion of shells in the arsenal.

The unemployed Workmen will again parade in San Francisco to-day.

The Dominion House at Ottawa yesterday voted \$100,000 for the Irish relief fund.

AT Murfreesboro, Tenn., yesterday, Burnell Smith and John Hall were hanged in the presence of 10,000 to 15,000 people.

It has been decided at Washington not to furnish New Mexico and Colorado with any more troops.

The net earnings of the Illinois Central Railroad during 1875 were \$4,807,764.

WILLIAM TERRELL, aged 79, killed Adam Ferrin, also aged 79, yesterday, at Corinth, Vt., and then cut his own throat.

GENERAL GRANT and party arrived at Vera Cruz on the 18th instant, after a smooth voyage.

A BOMBING occurred at a fire in New York last night.

In the State Senate yesterday several bills were read a second time, any new bills were introduced, but the greater part of the day was taken up in the consideration of the insolvency bill.

The usual quantity of valuable and entertaining reading matter will be found by our readers on the inside pages of the Record-Union this morning.

THE FISH QUESTION.

A foolish member of the Legislature was so ill-advised the other evening as to intimate to Mr. B. B. Redding, Fish Commissioner, that he had no business to come before a committee to oppose the preposterous claims of the fishermen for the abolition of the close season. Perhaps, therefore, it may be also thought by some legislators that the press has no business to participate in this discussion, and that, in fact, nobody has any rights in the premises but the aforesaid fishermen. Nevertheless we shall take the liberty to express the opinion that as Mr. Redding is of counsel for the People in all matters appertaining to the conservation of the fish interest, he was strictly within the line of his duty on the occasion referred to. Moreover, we think it is clearly perceived by the public that Mr. Redding's positions on the fish question are sound, and that the demands of the fishermen are unreasonable and against public policy. It is not desirable or proper that these men and the canners should have a monopoly of all the fish in the rivers, yet that, and nothing less, is what they demand. Their proposition for a so-called close season from Saturday night to Monday morning is a farce. What they really ask is that there shall be no close season at all. They would, if the proposed law was passed, be enabled to strip the rivers of all the fish, and the people of the interior would be left without a fish. It is a most impudent proposition, and the Legislature cannot grant it without flagrantly betraying the interests of the people. Members of no party can afford to put themselves on record as endorsing such a bill, and the desire to oblige a colleague who may have rashly promised to some of his constituents cannot be advanced as an excuse for sacrificing the interests of the whole State in order to swell the profits of a few in one section. A close season has been shown to be necessary for the proper stocking of the rivers and streams with fish, and the present law ought not to be altered, unless it be to lengthen the close season. The fishermen and canners now enjoy every right and privilege to which they have any shadow of claim. Let them be content to let well enough alone.

The Nevada Central has commenced shipping freight to Austin merchants.

RECLAMATION AND DEBRIS PROBLEMS.

After the expenditure of much time, money and engineering talent, it has at last been definitely ascertained that the problems of reclamation and mining debris are capable of a satisfactory solution, and that the way to treat them is by a comprehensive system. The farmers, the miners, the inhabitants of cities exposed to overflow through the filling up of the rivers, are all interested in having such a system adopted. Great sums have been expended in partial plans of reclamation, but because of their want of harmony with any general system they have been abortive. All the experience of the past enforces the lesson that safety for the State lies in unity of action, and in that alone. All the experience of the past shows that so long as any interest or section tries to secure its protection without reference to other sections, its labor will be in vain. Every step in the investigations which have been recently concluded point the same way. There is no longer any uncertainty about the matter. We know the policy which science assures us will succeed, and we know that every other policy has already failed. Under these circumstances it is a matter not only for surprise, but for adverse comment, that the first attempt to utilize and apply the knowledge gained at so much expense should have been met with a clamor of hasty and acrimonious objections, instead of being considered calmly, and with a view to the removal of whatever objectionable features it may contain. Notwithstanding the overwhelming evidence now before the public of the necessity of concerted action on these questions, it would seem impossible to introduce any bill proposing to deal practically with them, without causing an instant revival of all the narrow, petty, short-sighted jealousies and apprehensions which have had so much to do with the failure of previous attempts in this direction. It is evident that if the serious problems to be considered are to be handled in this spirit, nothing can be done this session, and we desire to point out now that if remedial legislation is not secured it will be owing to the unintelligent and capricious opposition of those who, while incapable of creating a practicable system themselves, seek to discredit every proposition advanced by others.

If nothing is done at this session the future will have to take care of itself. The litigation between the farmers and the miners will proceed, and the settlement of the debris question will have to await the tedious and well-nigh interminable process of the Courts. It is already very evident that the chief obstacles to progress at present are being prepared by attorneys who fear that the adoption of a comprehensive system of drainage and reclamation would interfere with their business by doing away with the necessity for litigation. It is perfectly clear that the interests of the people, of the farmers, the miners, the citizens of Sacramento and Marysville, the owners of swamp lands, demand the adoption of a system which will embody and apply the principles laid down in the report of the State Engineer. In fact none but the lawyers have anything to hope or expect from procrastination in this business, and their motives are obviously selfish, and not in harmony with the public welfare. Sacramento has much to gain and nothing to lose by the adoption of such a general system of reclamation, and, moreover, Sacramento cannot afford to wait. Every year adds to the danger in which the flow of debris places this city, and therefore all our interests require that we should support a policy of immediate action. There has been altogether too much cross-purpose about this matter in the past, and it is time sensible men united to carry into effect whatever plans may upon full examination prove the most satisfactory. There is no danger that any bad legislation will be had in the premises. Those who are interested can shape it to suit themselves. But the demand of the hour is for action.

At present there is a prevailing cry for labor going up from the unemployed. Thousands of healthy men in San Francisco are without work. Well, here is a means whereby they, and thousands more, can obtain it. Millions of capital also are withdrawn from investment and lying idle in the State. Well, here is a means whereby every dollar of it can be profitably employed. Reclamation of the swamp lands, the building of debris dams in the mountains, the extension of levee systems, afford opportunities for the utilization of all the spare labor in California. And the employment of that labor upon these works is demanded in the interest of the whole State. It is the creation of enormous wealth to which it would be devoted. The reclamation of the swamp and overflowed lands will add scores of millions to the taxable property of the State, build up new industries, cause the settlement of immense tracts now lying waste, stimulate trade in every direction, and give the community treasures the value and permanence of which will sink the Comstock lode into comparative insignificance. This is the most important undertaking now before the people, and it promises the most magnificent results. Let it therefore be discussed with a due sense of its magnitude, of the benefits to be derived from it, and of the urgency of the remedial measures which are proposed. Work for the unemployed, wealth for all concerned, security for endangered property, the utilization of rich and fertile regions hitherto idle, the encouragement of settlement and cultivation, the enhancement of real estate values—all these desirable ends are embraced in the drainage and reclamation problem. It would be nothing short of a calamity should the session end before any legislation is had upon this momentous question, but the only way to secure what is needed is for all concerned to unite in amending and improving, instead of opposing and pulling to pieces, such bills as are introduced.

A MATTER OF INTEREST TO SACRAMENTO.

We publish elsewhere an account of a meeting held recently by the citizens of El Dorado county, for the purpose of presenting arguments in behalf of the extension of the Sacramento and Placerville Railroad to Placerville. The showing made of the growth of El Dorado county, as well as to once perceived, highly encouraging, and the ripeness of the demand for an extension of the road can hardly be questioned. It is further apparent that

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

(From our San Francisco exchanges of February 20th.) Duties paid at the Custom-house yesterday were \$20,416 78, making a total of \$307,392 12 for the month. The Supreme Court will sit next Monday, notwithstanding the day will be celebrated as the anniversary of Washington's birthday.

Passengers Passing Calif.

CALLS, February 20th.—The following passengers passed the Golden Gate on the Sacramento-to-morrow: F. H. Myers, Salt Lake City; D. E. Rose, New York City; S. J. Nathan, Sacramento; Dr. P. W. Mouser and wife, Mrs. O. C. Steyer, F. Topitz, San Francisco; J. Frank, Amsterdam; Thos. Davis, Chicago; Mrs. A. H. Frank and daughter, San Francisco; William D. Hare, Oregon; J. E. Hanks, Washington; S. P. Fisher, J. Franklin, San Francisco; G. W. Callahan, Helena, Mont.; B. M. Mallory, Kelton, Utah; J. W. Edwards, Grass Valley, Cal.; James C. Crosey, New York City; Jacobs, H. C. Jacobs, Salt Lake City; Edward Wright, New York; A. M. Vanhorn, Illinois; Henry Sargent, Ogden, Utah; Mrs. Babcox, San Francisco; Mrs. Robert McCall and child, Elko, Nev.; 48 emigrants, including 32 males, to arrive in Sacramento February 22d.

CAPITOL NOTES.—

It is understood that the opinion of the Attorney-General has been asked in reference to the pending Assembly Bill No. 334, entitled "An Act to promote drainage" and that he will probably decide it unconstitutional in its present form. The consideration of the insolvency bill yesterday in the Senate drew a large attendance of business men and others to listen to the discussion engaged in, and a similar audience will probably be present to-day, as action will be continued upon the subject.

Snow-plows have been kept continually running for several days and nights near the Summit. Last night snow was falling steadily but the road was clear, and if no blizzards occurred the trains will all be on time this morning.

One of the South African Boers said recently to "Bull Run" Russell: "I should not like to be an Englishman, because I should have to get drunk and be put into jail."

The oyster packers of Baltimore have advanced the price of canned oysters 10 per cent, to go into effect at once. The reason given is the increased cost of labor.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

PROGRESS AND POVERTY. An inquiry into the cause of industrial depression, and increase of want with increase of wealth. T. A. Remondy, by Henry George. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Mr. George has here written a very remarkable book. It is neither more nor less than a deliberate impeachment of every pre-existing school of political economy, and the establishment upon its ruins of a theory of social organization founded in its adoption the uprooting of the foundations of civilization as at present constituted. It is obvious that a work embracing propositions so new and challenges so daring must command attention, even if the novelty and audacity of it are its main attractions. But we should be doing great injustice to Mr. George if we were to pretend that his book possesses no stronger recommendations than these. It is, within its limits, a carefully and skillfully written argument, and it embodies a great deal of shrewd thought, and abounds with suggestive ideas. It is one of those books which are sure to be blamed and praised with equal indifference. It is calculated to captivate the average reader, however, and because this is so, and because it appears to us that harm as well as good may arise from the common tendency to acquiesce in a seemingly strong argument, the real merits of which are beyond the discernment of the masses, it is desirable that it should be examined with particular care. Before pointing out wherein its defects lie, however, it is necessary to give some account of a book which is certain to provoke a very acute discussion among thinking men. Mr. George sets out to show that the accepted theories in regard to the causes of the tendency of wages to a minimum are erroneous. He tilts at Adam Smith, and John Stuart Mill, and Malthus, and Ricardo, and McCulloch, and all the economists, and having the choice of ground and weapons, he is enabled to demolish his adversaries. His arguments against Mill and Malthus are extremely ingenious and adroit. Indeed the whole book is a really splendid series of logical triumphs. The author marches on from demonstration to demonstration with an energy, a persistence, a mastery of his plan of campaign so thorough as to carry the reader with him, while the intense earnestness and frequent eloquence of his language infuse into all he says a kind of enthusiasm which goes far toward atoning for the utter absence of diffidence, which would otherwise be one of the most remarkable characteristics of the work.

The aim of the book is to show that the increase of want with the increase of wealth has been misapprehended by all who have written on the subject before; that the Malthusian theory of population is disproved by the facts; that the current theory of wages and interest is all wrong; that none of the remedies for pauperism hitherto proposed are of any value; but that the only way to save modern civilization from the ruin which has fallen upon ancient societies is to abolish private ownership in land. The way in which this hypothesis is developed is admirable. A more strongly connected argument would be scarcely possible to conceive. The ingenious author has apparently left no loophole unguarded, no objection unprovided for. And because of this close reasoning and smooth progress the interest of the argument is sustained to the close, which is impassioned and has proceeded rather from a fervid display of logic than from a sober Pennsylvania American of the latter end of the nineteenth century. We cannot find space for such an analysis of the book as would alone do it justice. It would be alike unfair and presumptuous to condense into a few hasty lines the pith of arguments which have been labored with the greatest care, and whose force consists in their elaboration. Nor would it be possible to convey to such as had not seen the book any adequate conception of its character or scope by such methods. It is emphatically a work which must be read to be appreciated, and we shall not hesitate to add that it is a work which all thinking men ought to read, notwithstanding the extreme radicalism of its conclusions, and notwithstanding the fallacy of many of its positions.

We desire to place on record our very high appreciation of the merits of the work before proceeding to point out wherein it seems to fall short of the aims of the author. We recognize in it one of those valuable attempts to throw more light upon the scheme of civilization, which are always so prolific of intellectual progress. It may not follow that indifference to the influence of authority in matters of opinion indicates originality of mind, or predominance of genius; but it is certain that without that want of reverence for conventional standards, there would be little or no advance, and that it alone has repeatedly saved the world from sinking into the torpid condition of the Chinese. It is from friction that fire springs, and it is from the sharpest and most sweeping challenges of received hypotheses that the greatest enlightenment is to be expected. The standard erected by Mr. George, the pursuit of Truth at no matter what cost, is one which all liberal intelligences must recognize and defer to. His method is the only thoroughly respectable method of inquiry, and whose follows it is entitled to have his results examined with the utmost candor and impartiality. While, however, Mr. George has here produced a very able and powerful and deeply interesting volume, and while we are satisfied that many of his criticisms of accepted economic theories are sound, we are compelled to say that we do not think he has succeeded in what must be regarded as the crucial demonstration of his system: the demonstration, namely, that the methods he advocates would really bring about the improvement he seeks in the condition of mankind.

The very compactness of his argument tends to blind the reader to the narrowness of its limits, and to produce conviction of its truth. It must therefore be pointed out that this compactness, when understandingly regarded, is really a cause for suspicion rather than conviction. And for reasons which we will now advance. Previous writers on political economy have, with few exceptions, commenced unprejudiced and uncommitted. If they have seemed to get confused occasionally, or if they have at times adopted inconsistent or mutually destructive hypotheses, it was because they were traversing a country without roads, over which every traveler must pick out his own path. But it is not so with Mr. George. In this case we must study the genesis of the book in order to obtain the data for just conclusions in regard to it. It is well known in this State, at least among literary men, that Mr. George has for several years entertained the belief that all taxes ought to be placed upon land. That he reached that belief long before he had given the subject anything like an exhaustive examination, we have no doubt he would himself admit. But in this fact we have the explanation of much that without it must seem perplexing. It teaches us that in all his economic studies Mr. George was seeking confirmation for a pre-conceived hypothesis, and it is at once becoming evident that in doing this he desired to strengthen his argument by repeatedly warping his judgment, and at times even seriously affected the fidelity of his representations of conflicting opinions. As illustrations of what we mean we will adduce his

statement of the law of wages as currently accepted, and his travesty—if it is nothing less—of the Malthusian doctrine. In the first of these instances we think he has, no doubt unconsciously, ascribed to a whole school views which it is extremely doubtful whether any of them held or hold, while in the second he has revived against Malthus those exploded theories and those extravagant imputations which the opponents of that celebrated writer assailed him with on the first appearance of his work, but which have long since been abandoned by all who have read the Essay on Population for themselves.

The possession of a favorite theory is a wonderful clarifier of the ideas, but it is by no means so conducive to the attainment of impartial conclusions. The man who has a hobby is apt to ride it hard, and to subordinate everything else to it, whenever he can do so. Whoever sets out to demonstrate the truth of a notion which has already obtained complete possession of his mind, is tolerably certain to succeed, at least to his own satisfaction; and if his researches happen to be in so imperfectly explored a region as that of political economy, he can take great liberties with the opinions of his antagonists without incurring much danger of being taken to task by the public who read his argument. We do not mean to say that Mr. George has done this with any view to the suppression of facts which make against him, but we do assert that no man who sets out with a pre-conceived theory, and who works up to it from the beginning, can avoid being influenced most powerfully by such matters as support his foregone conclusions. No doubt it will be said that the question whether Mr. George proceeded untrammelled by a previous theory or not, is immaterial, the real question being whether he has succeeded in proving his case. But this is not so. Any man can prove any case if he is permitted to arrange the facts to suit himself. The real question must therefore always be, not, has he proved his case, but, has he so fairly and fully marshaled the facts as to render his final demonstration a genuine one? To answer this question it is obviously necessary to have gone largely over the same ground traversed by the author. To every representation of the views of his opponents, his argument will probably appear complete and conclusive. That is as much as we say that it will so appear to the majority, as well of critics as of readers, and this we quite believe and expect. Nevertheless we are convinced that the peculiar circumstances concerning the genesis of the book which we have pointed out, ought to be considered by all who read it, and that without a knowledge of these circumstances it is very unlikely to be rightly apprehended.

Before proceeding to a consideration of the author's final conclusions, which we have said appear to us ill warranted, it is desirable to bestow some attention upon his preliminary assumption, namely, that poverty increases *pari passu* with wealth. It is evident that the demonstration of this position ought to have preceded every other consideration, and yet, curiously enough, it is simply taken for granted. We should be strongly disposed to deny its soundness. We do not believe that any such condition of things can be proved. On the contrary, we believe that the tendency of civilization is towards the diminution of poverty and the steady increase of comfort and enjoyment of life among the masses. The proportion of very poor to the community is less now than it ever has been. The standard of comfort among the poor is higher now than it ever has been. Of such destitution as was too common to excite remark a century and a half ago, the instances are now so rare as to be phenomenal. The masses of workingmen to-day enjoy material comforts and conveniences which were inaccessible to the rich a few generations ago. They live better in all ways. They not only earn their wages, but they are able to purchase more of them. Their condition is immeasurably better than that of the common people even at the beginning of the present century. If we regard the most thickly populated countries of Europe the same observations hold good. The enormous increase of population which has taken place during the last two hundred years is of itself a convincing proof that life has been made easier for the masses, for under more rigorous conditions no such increase could have occurred.

A great disparity in wealth between the poorest and the richest no doubt exists, and this disparity will always exist, nor is there any reason why it should ever cease to exist. A similar disparity may be observed between intelligences, between physical developments, between tempers and tendencies, and capacities of every kind. A similar disparity may be traced in all the works of Nature. Who looks for Equality in the universe will look in vain, for every law of matter floats the theory. That the possessions of men should be unequal is no more remarkable, and no more unreasonable, and no more objectionable, than that the mental abilities of men should be unequal, or that their bodies should differ radically in respect to their muscular strength. The accumulation of great wealth need give no concern to the statesman, nor is it a matter with which the economist can rightly deal. The only question of vital importance is, whether the condition of the masses is improving. If it is, and if it can be shown, as we believe it can, that there is a greater happiness enjoyed by a greater number to-day than at any previous period in the history of the world, then it matters little or nothing that individual aggregations of wealth are on the increase, while it may not be difficult to demonstrate that civilization is stimulated by the possibility of attaining these splendid prizes.

Passing by this consideration, which really goes rather to the justification for writing such a book as Mr. George's, than to the book as actually written, it is necessary to say something of his theory of land tenure, for upon this the whole argument hinges. We cannot but admire the skill with which he has led up to his favorite hypothesis, and the boldness with which he advocates it, even though the latter quality appears to brand the system as hopelessly impracticable. The defense of the present tenure of land on ethical principles is impossible. That much may be freely granted, and has indeed been conceded by so logical and impartial a reasoner as Herbert Spencer. But ethics do not constitute a sufficient basis for human society to rest upon, and this fact is not clearly enough perceived by those who insist upon the wrongfulness of the existing systems of land tenure. It must be remembered that civilization is yet in its infancy; that it has been throughout a constant struggle against savagism and barbarism; that at all times the methods adopted have been those which were alone possible at the moment; that at all times it has been necessary to tolerate many evils for the sake of maintaining stability in a society, that being the sole hope of improvement; that prescription has acquired the force almost of a law of nature in this way; and that the spirit which infuses civilization, namely, the spirit of progress and of ambitious methods, and the security of property, and the enforcement of contracts, are not to be sacrificed to the desire of attaining the goal of perfection. Nor can it be said that the disposition has been to

crystallize old and crude land laws into impalpable forms. On the contrary, they have yielded repeatedly to the reforming influences of advancing intelligence, and in every really progressive nation their condition has always been a transitional one. Even at this moment, in that land of settled customs and veneration for precedents, Great Britain, Parliament is about to attack the time-honored practice of primogeniture and entail. The question of the subdivision of land is one which is certain to be determined in accordance with the prevailing view of public feeling, in every modern country. But the abolition of private ownership in land, which Mr. George advocates, involves not merely a change in land tenure, but a revolution in civilization.

There is no instance in history of the success of a people who had not private ownership in land. There are instances of aborted civilizations which have never got beyond community in land. Community in land has always been associated with the lower stages of civilization; never with its higher stages. And when we seek and find the explanation of this we shall have put our finger upon the fatal blot in Mr. George's book. He admits frankly that one result of his plan to put all taxes upon land would be to check enterprise. He endeavors to gloss over this consequence by arguing that the world would be made better if greed of gain was eliminated, and by picturing a state of society in which men would devote much more time to the generous emulation of intellectual contests, and the elevating influence of scientific research. But it does not seem to have occurred to him that his revolutionary change would have to be introduced to a world in which, rightly or wrongly, the lust of gain and the ambition for material property constitute the dominant social influences; and that in eliminating the means of satisfying these desires he would himself destroy the only motive for active exertions capable of influencing the men and women then in existence. In short, he does not perceive that the present civilization is a product of evolution; that it has developed slowly out of changing conditions; that the stimulants which conduce to the advancement of society are of the very essence of human nature; and that to remove the means of exercising tendencies so firmly associated with this human nature could only paralyze the civilization in which the experiment was tried, but could not regenerate it.

The stimulus to exertion gone, the means of building for posterity withdrawn, the field of enterprise circumscribed, the decay of that civilization would follow. The development of that higher intellectual tendency which Mr. George imagines as a substitute for the greed of gain, would be looked for in vain. The standard of average intelligence and culture now marked by the average devoted to sordid pursuits, would remain unchanged. There would be, as before, a world full of vulgar, greedy, selfish people, but they would be to a large extent deprived of the means of gratifying their vulgarity, rapacity and egoism. Does Mr. George think that his *panacea* would have the effect of purifying and elevating human nature? Did the adoption of a code or a law ever produce such a result? We are tempted to say of Mr. George's reasoning on this head, *admirabilem ferunt se nescit pariter quare*. It is splendidly naive, but it is not statesmanship, nor sober argument. Yet it by no means follows that there is no force in his theory. The inequitable nature of the gains which accrue from the increase in the value of land under given circumstances is not to be denied, and it is so glaring that for some time past the tendency has been greater and greater to find a remedy for it. That in the fullness of time such a remedy will be discovered, we do not doubt, and it is quite possible that this work may help the search considerably.

It is a necessity of high enthusiasm to gather all humanity into the field of its vision, and to fortify itself with the belief that it is working for the whole race. It is alike the charm and the blemish of Mr. George's book that he has undertaken to regenerate the world, and that his catholic sympathies embrace all peoples and races in one grand and comprehensive scheme of reform. The possession of such a genuine fervor of philanthropy as he exhibits on every page is of itself refreshing and gratifying, and in this instance it has imparted a certain fire and eloquence to his pen which will, we think, make of his book a great source of attraction to those whose intellectual condition causes them to prefer reason adorned with sentiment to reason unadorned. We do not hesitate to say that Mr. George has written a really delightful volume, and one which is full of that high and somewhat excited thought which for want of a better name is called inspiration. What commends it to the average mind, however, is its sincere sympathy with humanity, its tenderness, its passionate desire for better things. We are inclined to think that it is destined to have a very great success, because in many of its features it appeals specially to that spirit of free inquiry which is one of the most marked characteristics of the age.

We have endeavored, while fully recognizing the merits of the work, to point out some of its defects. Of these, we are of opinion that the last mentioned is fatal to the plausibility of the whole hypothesis. It is not, however, by any means the only objection that could be urged against the book, though it would require far more time and space than we can command to even touch upon such other points as have impressed themselves upon us. We have noticed of "Progress and Poverty" in some sense it is spoken of as a dangerous book. We do not think it dangerous. It is a candid and outspoken presentation of views the adoption of which would revolutionize society, and bring the existing civilization to a dead stop. As we are assured that the interests enlisted for the maintenance of the existing civilization are far stronger than any which can be mustered against it, and moreover, the tendency in modern society is more and more towards the orderly elimination of prescriptive abuses, and the removal of needless inequalities, we believe that the only effect the general perusal of such a book can now have is to quicken discussion, and thus facilitate and hasten desired reforms. But the very fact that modern society is dominated by the passion for acquisition constitutes a guarantee for the preservation of the freedom of action and the scope of possession which are indispensable to the full employment of enterprise and energy, and renders it certain that no restriction will be placed upon those attributes while human nature is what evolution has made it.

Marshal Canrobert in the French Senate denied that he took part in Napoleon's *coup d'etat*, asserting that he was a stranger to its conception and execution. (A voice: "You are still playing extenuating circumstances.") He had been slandered for twenty-seven years for having ordered the massacre on the boulevards. The charge was false; no General would have given such an order. His order was to cease firing, and the trumpeter who was to promulgate that order was killed by his side, and that by a bullet certainly not meant for him. (Sensation.) It was the hot-headed recruits, he said, who did the firing.

Washington, February 20th.—The Senate proceeded to consider the calendar. Besides various private bills, the following were passed: The bill to authorize the printing of certain articles in books and for indemnity for lost registered articles, and the bill to repeal the provisions of the Revised Statutes relating to the advancement of navy and marine officers (sixty in number) in rank for extraordinary services. The bill to authorize the President to appoint Sergeant John D. Lan, of the Fifth Cavalry, a Second Lieutenant, and placing him on the retired list, was indefinitely postponed upon the reading of a telegram from the Secretary of War to Colwell, stating that Dolan was killed in the late battle with the Utes. The bill introduced by Platt, authorizing the President to invite the cooperation of foreign governments in the construction of an inter-oceanic canal, was ordered to lie on the table and laid aside by the absence of Mr. Vest.

The bill introduced by Vest, to incorporate the "Inter-oceanic Transit Company," was laid aside in the absence of Mr. Vest. The morning hour having expired, the Senate resumed consideration of the "Five per cent. bill." Logic favored the bill. He quoted various laws providing for grant funds for military service to show that these laws were considered cash payments. The bill to authorize the completion and printing of the Naval History of the United States, passed. The bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to detail an officer to compile for publication the official record of the late war, and to have the same printed, in conjunction with the compilation of 18th armies, now progressing under the direction of the Secretary of War, was ordered to lie on the table. Adjourned until Monday.

House. Washington, February 20th.—A resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of the Interior for why he had not reported the amount of land sold, granted to the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad Company; the disposition made of those lands, and why said lands had not been sold in conformity with the Union Pacific Railroad at Kearny, Neb. The Speaker proceeded to call on the committees for reports of a private nature. The Senate joint resolution passed authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to detail an officer to compile for publication the official record of the late war, and to have the same printed, in conjunction with the compilation of 18th armies, now progressing under the direction of the Secretary of War, was ordered to lie on the table. Adjourned until Monday.

CONGRESSIONAL.

(SPECIAL BY TELEGRAPH TO THE RECORD-UNION.)

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California Legislature. The Committee on State Prison last night resumed the investigation into the matter of the construction of the Folsom Branch Prison. Considerable testimony was taken of the same general character as that reported in our columns. The bill was reported by the Committee on February 19th, and is now in the hands of the Senate. The bill is reported by the Committee on February 19th, and is now in the hands of the Senate. The bill is reported by the Committee on February 19th, and is now in the hands of the Senate.

THE COURTS. SUPREME COURT. IN BANK. THURSDAY, February 19th. 10,427—People vs. Ah Chong—Argued by Carter for a petition and by General Hart for respondent, and submitted. 10,428—People vs. Lee Fat—On motion of Respondent for a writ of habeas corpus, his ten days to respond to be brief. 10,477—People vs. Gaby—Opinion filed. DEPARTMENT NO. 1. THURSDAY AFTERNOON, February 19th. 6181—Thompson vs. Felton—Argument concluded by Lake for respondent and Flournoy for appellant, and cause submitted. 6191—Ladd vs. Durkin—Argued by Bates for appellant and Ladd for respondent, and cause submitted. DEPARTMENT NO. 1. THURSDAY AFTERNOON, February 19th. 6234—Sherman vs. Hines—Argument concluded by Sherman for appellant and Hines for respondent, and cause submitted. 6235—Hibbard vs. Hibbard and Leon Society vs. Hibbard—Argument concluded by Hibbard for appellant and Leon Society for respondent, and further argument continued. FRIDAY, February 20th. IN BANK. 6054—Brady vs. Keim—Opinion filed. IN BANK. FRIDAY, February 20th. Lamb vs. Board of Supervisors of Fresno County—Argued by Irvine for respondents, and pending argument the Court took a recess. SUPERIOR COURT. DESSON, Judge. FRIDAY, February 20th. E. E. Ephraim vs. John W. Hall et al.—Order is issued for plaintiff to file undertaking sufficient to secure the return of the property with interest and restraining order. Sarah H. Craver vs. Jeremiah Craver—Mat. P. Johnson for plaintiff and Craver for defendant. Clarke & Cox vs. John B. Hall et al.—Judgment as prayed for. P. Thord vs. E. P. Fieg—Continued to March 2d. Harriet Smith vs. M. M. Drew—Dismissed. John C. Smith vs. His Creditors—Decree of final discharge. Briggs vs. Smith—Dismissed. Warren Heaton vs. Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company—Continued to February 25th. RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-MORROW. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sixth street, corner of L—Rev. H. H. Rice, pastor, will preach Sabbath morning at 10:45, and evening at 7. Strangers cordially invited. Kingsley E. Church, Fluvant street, between H and L—Rev. J. E. Wicks, pastor. Preaching to-morrow at 10:45 A. M. and 7 P. M. Study school at 12:40 P. M. Praise service at 6:30